OH YEAH— THAT DRAGON BOY'S DEBUT IS DUE FOR TODAY!
I WONDER IF THEY'RE DOING WELL?
IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE, LUCKILY.
HOW ABOUT PRAYING FOR KIYA?
LET'S DRINK TO THEIR SUCCESS
DON'T YOU BOOZE DAILY ANYWAYS, SCUD?
THAT'S RIGHT, IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE! LET'S GET A DRINK ON OUR WAY BACK, BEE!!

義足の殺し屋と半人半竜の少女
異例のコンビが描く 現代ダークファンタジー

竜は黄昏の夢をみる

第5話
ファーストミッション

姫川明
Akira Himekawa

3 months after the training at Vasrah, capital of the Republic of Slovania in Eastern Europe.
WOW... IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL!
THE TOWN IS GLITTERING BECAUSE OF ALL THE LIGHTS RIGHT, TJ?
LIKE A SKY FULL OF STARS!
THOSE ARE
JUST NEON LIGHTS.
VRRR...

HERE WE ARE.
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO, DON'T YOU?
YES I KNOW.
YOU SPENT SO MUCH TIME ON MY TRAINING AFTER ALL.
JUST... TAKE DOWN THE MONSTERS RIGHT?
IT'S OKAY IF I DON'T *KILL* THEM— ISN'T IT?
POINTS OFF IF YOU GET YOUR CLOTHES TORN.
I HATE THIS OUTFIT!
HURRY UP AND GET OUT!

WAAH! SO COLD!
I can't take this cold!

AND BECOME A HUNTER.
IF I PASS THIS TEST,
TODAY'S MISSION MARKS THE END OF YOUR TRAINING.
THIS IS YOUR FINAL EXAM
IF EVERYTHING GOES WELL, YOU'LL BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THAT BORING JAIL-CELL OF A ROOM.
WILL THEY LET ME GO HOME?
I'VE ASKED HIM THIS QUESTION SO MANY TIMES THAT
EVEN I'M SICK OF IT
ACTUALLY, I REALIZED ON MY VERY FIRST DAY HERE THAT I'LL NEVER BE ALLOWED TO RETURN
YOU'LL BE CONSIDERED A FULL-FLEDGED HUNTER.

YOU'LL BE SENT TO THE ZOO, OF COURSE
WHAT THE HECK?!
THE... ZOO?!

LET'S ALL EAT TURKEY! TURKEY!
IT'S ALL FAT WALLETS ON THE EVE.
MWA HA HA! BLOOD! MONEY!
VESRAH- A corner of the slums on 25th block
SHAKE A LITTLE WITH ME, WON'T YA?
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
HEY, BROTHER. THAT MEAT SURE LOOKS DELICIOUS.
THIS IS MY FAVO-RITE.
TURKEY AIN'T THAT TASTY.
OOPS.
GYAAAAH!
FORGOT TO PRAY BEFORE I STARTED EATING...
OH, WELL.

IT'S THE SMELL OF HUMAN FLESH BEING BURNT BY DICAPAY FLAME.
NORTH... NORTH-WEST
THE SLUM AREA OVERRUN BY GANGS?
DIS-TANCE?
ABOUT 3 KM...
POSI-TION?
ABOUT?
WHY SO IMPRECISE?
WHAT THE HECK?
T.J. YOU'RE TOO MEAN!
BETTER GET THE HYENAS TO TEACH YOU HOW TO PICK UP ON THE SCENT OF ROTTING MEAT.
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO FIRST FED ME MEAT.
YOU WANT TO THROW ME AWAY?!
AND LET ME SMELL YOUR SCENT! IT'D BE CRUEL OF YOU TO LEAVE ME NOW!
IF YOU INSIST ON MY BEING YOUR PARTNER, YOU'LL HAVE TO EARN THE LOVE YOU WANT.
BY PROVING THAT YOU CAN BE HELPFUL
IF ALL YOU WANT TO HEAR IS MEANING-LESS PRAISE, YOU CAN JUST GET YOURSELF A NEW PARTNER
I'M PRETTY SURE SCUD WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOU

YOUR PURPOSE IS TO HUNT DOWN DICAPAY
YOU'RE... A HOUND!
GO HUNT FOR YOUR PREY!

I'VE MEMORIZED THE SCENT, SO IT'LL BE OKAY
I'VE TRAINED WITH TJ FOR 3 LONG MONTHS, BUT THIS IS MY FIRST TIME GOING INTO REAL COMBAT.
THAT IDIOT, TJ!
EVEN THOUGH HE WAS THE ONE WHO AP...RO...CHED ME...
I HAVE THE STRENGTH IN MY ORIGINAL FORM!
JUST WATCH!
IT'LL TRANSMIT MY LOCATION AND MOVEMENT TO TJ VIA GPS.
THE SAME CHOKER AS TJ'S—
MY SENSE OF SMELL IS SHARPENED IN THIS FROZEN NIGHT.
MY SENSE OF SMELL IS TWO HUNDRED MILLION TIMES THAT OF A HUMAN'S.
TWO DICAPAY ARE—RIGHT AHEAD!

CHILDREN MAKE FOR THE BEST MEALS! I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND WHY HUMANS LOVE EATING LAMBS AND CALVES!
YUP.
I CAN'T GET IN TOUCH WITH AXE.
HE'S PROBABLY AFTER A GOOD MEAL AGAIN.
MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST MOVE TO PARIS OR ROME...
I HEARD THAT TRAPPERS HAVE BEEN PROWLING ABOUT 'ROUND HERE. IT'S PRETTY BAD NEWS FOR US
SHISH!
HERE ARE YOUR 20 ORDERS OF SHISH-KEBAB!
WHOA
AND ANOTHER 4 BEERS!
I DON'T KNOW WHY WE SPEND ALL THAT MONEY
BITE
JUST TO EAT SOME-THING LIKE THIS.

THAT BOY'S A...
A KID...?
AFTER THEM!!!

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
THOSE TWO MUST'VE BEEN DICAPAY.
BUT THEIR SCENTS WERE MASKED BY THE STENCH OF HUMAN DEATH.
YO!
WELCOME, GUEST
ARE YOU THE TYPE TO PUT YOUR NOSE BEFORE YOUR EYES, BOY?
ゴルル
?!
LIKE... THIS!

DICAPAY!
HE'S SO FAST!
GAH!
WHAT DO I DO? IF I FAIL...
SHIT! I CAN'T MOVE!
CRACK CRACK
IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I IMAGINED!!
WHAT'S WITH THIS MONSTER?
WHAT INCREDIBLE STRENGTH

TO THE ZOO, OBVIOUSLY!
THIS GUY IS
I FIGURED AS MUCH HE'S NOT HUMAN
A TRAPPER'S DOG?
WHY ARE YOU BEING KEPT BY HUMANS?

WAIT A MIN—!
...!
WE DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH
SOME TRAPPER'S SLAVE!
DAMN! I LOST THEM!
THEIR SCENT...
I CAN'T DETECT THEIR SCENT ANYMORE!!!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
EVEN AFTER ALL THAT TRAINING .!
I JUST PANICKED!
I... COULDN'T TRANSFORM AT ALL!
WHY ARE YOU TREMBLING LIKE THAT?
BIG BROTHER..
DAMN!

SEE?
IF I DO THIS, IT'S NOT COLD AT ALL!
NO PROB-LEM!
HUH? BUT THEN, YOU'LL BE COLD!
WHAT'S THIS KID DOING HERE?
ARE YOU COLD? HERE, YOU CAN HAVE MY SCARF.
It's a Christmas present!
I GOT SEPARATED FROM MAMA WHILE WE WERE DOING THE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING.
I'M GOING BACK ON MY OWN I KNOW THE WAY.
I wonder if mama is worried?
OH... SO WARM!
? BIG BROTHER? WHAT'S WRONG?
THIS IS NO GOOD! I'VE GOTTA HURRY AND FIND THE DICAPA?!
THANKS FOR THE SCARF! HURRY HOME AND BE CAREFUL, 'KAY?

WILL YOU...
REVEAL YOUR TRUE SELF TO ME?
!
THIS GUY CAME UP BEHIND ME SO SUDDENLY! WHAT/IS HE, I WONDER?
CALM DOWN.
I ONLY WISH TO TALK.
YOU AND I ARE ALIKE IN THAT WE ARE BOTH NON-HUMANS.
WE'RE A GO-BETWEEN HUMANS AND NON-HUMANS.
HE'S DIFFERENT FROM THOSE TWO...?
IS HE A DICAPAY, TOO?
WE SHOULD COOPERATE AND HELP EACH OTHER.
WE HAVE THE SAME LINEAGE, AFTER ALL.

KYAAAAH!
HUH?! DID HE JUST VANISH? WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
SAME LINEAGE?
PLEASE, BE SAFE...!
THAT SMELL... I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT!
THE SMELL OF BURNING FLESH!

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO LAY OFF THE KIDS FOR A WHILE.
THAT'S 'CUZ BRATS FROM RICH FAMILIES ARE NUTRITIOUS!
Ugh...
Ah-
THIS IS WAAAAY TASTIER THAN FOIE GRAS!
AAAAA

YOU JUST DEVOUR ANYTHING YOU COME ACROSS INDISCRIMINATELY.
AND YOU THINK ABOUT NOTHING BUT FILLING YOUR STOMACHS!
YOU GREEDY, DROOLING, LOWLIVES...
...YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN DIRTY DOGS!
NO. THAT'S INSULTING TO THE POOR DOGS.
YOU'RE MORE LIKE GLUTTONOUS GHOULS!
HEH. I WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS.

DON'T EXPECT A YELLOW CARD OF WARNING FROM ME...
...BECAUSE ALL I DESIRE IS YOUR INSTANT ANNIHILATION!
I ABSOLUTELY DESPISE RUDE CREATURES LIKE YOU WHO DON'T CARE FOR MODERATION.
AND DON'T GIVE ONE WHIT ABOUT TABLE MANNERS!

ドドド

...AND MAKE IT THAT YOUR CARCASS IS UNRECOG-NIZABLE!
I'LL TURN YOU INTO SCRAPS OF MEAT...
THIS IS SO HORRIBLE! THAT LITTLE GIRL
HOW COULD YOU!
WHY...?!
WHY DO YOU DO THIS KIND OF TERRIBLE THING?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, KIYA THE HOUND?!

JUMP!
ATTACK!

RIP HIS HEART OUT WITH YOUR CLAWS!
DON'T LUMP ME TOGETHER
WITH THE LIKES OF YOU!
GET OUT OF THE WAY, KIYA! I'LL KILL IT WITH ONE SHOT!

DAMN YOU, TRAPPERS!
!!
AA A AA AA AH!

REVERT TO...
...YOUR ORIGINAL FORM!
AAAAAAH

A STRANGE CREATURE, INDEED.
WE SHALL MEET AGAIN. SEE YOU IN TOKYO!
I SEE.. SO YOU WERE THE ONE WHO H,,S SOLD YOUR SOUL TO THE MONKEYS-THAT WOUND THE PRIDE OF US BEASTS!
YOU!, TRAITOR!
最強の犬物らしきが在が、ついに動き出す…!?
A POTENTIAL LEADING FIGURE IN THE DIG PAW WORLD IS ABOUT TO MAKE A MOVE.
TO BE CONTINUED...